

Hafa Adai!

DOL-WIA promotes work-based learning programs. **PAGE 2**

CUC owes over \$10M in OPA fees, agrees to offset CNMI gov't utility arrears. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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'There will be no gov't shutdown'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"Don't worry, there will be no government shutdown"



Palacios

This was the assurance given by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios in a statement to local media outlets yesterday. Last Tuesday, the House See **SHUTDOWN** on Page 4

\$27.1M secured for Medicaid for FY25

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Medicaid program will be kicking off the new fiscal year debt-free thanks to funding secured by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Sablan succeeded in attaching a one-time payment



Sablan

of \$27.1 million for the Marianas Medicaid program to appropriations passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate yesterday.

See **\$27.1M** on Page 4



AHEC SCHOLARS

Eight AHEC scholars from Northern Marianas College's Nursing Assistant Program proudly celebrate completing their clinical and didactic hours for Summer 2024. Upon fulfilling program requirements, participants receive stipends distributed throughout the program. The CNMI Area Health Education Center Scholars Program is designed to support students in healthcare fields, providing them with the skills and experience they need to make a positive impact on healthcare in our communities. To learn more about the AHEC Scholars Program, contact the CNMI AHEC Office at ahec@marianas.edu. Back from left, Monique B. Sablan, CDI director; Frankie Eliptico, vice president of Office of Advancement and Administration; Vaughn Mallari, Princess Joy Galzote, Mary Ann Baltazar, Pamela Ada, CDI/AHEC admin mnager; and Les Ogumoro-Uludong, CNMI AHEC associate director. Front row from left, Nicole Angela Lopez, Ronica Lei Miranda, Rose Claire Dela Cruz, Josphine Tengco, and Angelica Nicole Dela Cruz.

NMC



Aaron Cabrera



Andrew Duenas



Anthony Duenas



Skyler Benavente



Stanley Songao Fital



Dino Mettao



Brian Rios



Terrance Cabrera

7 involved in recent COP heist arrested

By CHRYSAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Public

Safety arrested seven individuals in connection with the Sept. 10, 2024 theft of multiple golf carts and machinery

from the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan.

According to DPS assistant chief of police and act-

ing public information officer Simon T. Manacop, the crime was initially reported last Sept. 10 when resort management discovered that several carts along with two portable welding machines and an

angle grinder were missing from the premises.

Manacop shared that after a thorough investigation led by the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau, the stolen

See **ARRESTED** on Page 4

33% drop in JVAs since 2019

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler said Job Vacancy Announcements have dropped 33% in the past four years, which clearly indicates the dwindling number of CNMI-Only Transitional Worker employees in the See **33%** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

RyAnne Palacios Camacho, a 2011 Mt. Carmel High School graduate, will be pursuing her doctorate degree in Health Administration at Morehouse School of Medicine.

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LOCAL

Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, president of Northern Marianas College, was recently appointed to the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education board of directors.

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LIFE & STYLE

Anna Sorokin, the convicted con artist who swindled banks, hotels and friends under the guise of being a "heiress" named Anna Delvey, has reached the end of her run on "Dancing With the Stars."

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Local

DOL-WIA promotes work-based learning programs

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Work-based learning programs were introduced by Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler during Marianas Business Network's mixer event last Wednesday night at Tom Yum Restaurant in San Antonio.

According to Staffler, who served as keynote speaker, the Workforce Investment Agency programs are free and designed specifically for U.S. citizens and eligible applicants.

"The biggest area I want to promote especially to small businesses is our programs related to the Workforce Investment Agency. These are work-based learning programs that are free to participate in. They are designed for U.S. citizens and U.S.-eligible applicants, but in general, their programs should feed in to each other so that U.S. business can take advantage and participate in one program, and when it's over, transition to the next program and so on until you may be exhausted two or three years of reus-

ing federal resources to train and develop," said Staffler.

They consist of the Pre-apprenticeship Program, Apprenticeship Program, On-the-Job Training Program, and Work Experience and Internship Program.

The Pre-apprenticeship Program provides pre-screened, ready-to-work employees who have been trained in the special skills that employers need.

The Apprenticeship Program is an industry-driven and flexible training model that can be customized to meet the needs of businesses across multiple industries.

The On-the-Job Training Program provides reimbursements to employers to help compensate for the costs associated with skills upgrade training for newly hired employees, while the Work Experience and Internship Program consists of planned, structured learning experiences that take place in a workplace for a limited period.

According to Staffler, the Pre-apprenticeship Program

currently has 64 pre-apprentices and 14 business sponsors, while the Apprenticeship Program has 30 apprentices with 10 business sponsors. It promotes traditional courses

in construction, culinary, and hospitality. Students who complete these courses and earn certifications can be hired as trainees by employers. Employers can assess potential employees through internships before committing to full-time hires.

"We have courses that are designed to pass students who take classes in construction, culinary, and hospitality. If they graduate and get their certification, you as an employer, can pick them as a trainee, so you're not committed to hiring them. They come work for you for a few months and you make them try different roles in your business and see where they're best at and we pay their internships 100%."

The apprentices, after completing the free apprentice's program courses, are

See DOL on Page 4



Staffler



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Camacho enters Morehouse School of Medicine

RyAnne Palacios Camacho, a 2011 Mt. Carmel High School graduate, will be pursuing her doctorate degree in Health Administration at Morehouse School of Medicine.

She and the rest of her cohort took part in the Morehouse School of Medicine's 40th Fall Convocation & White Coat and Pinning Ceremony last Friday, Sept. 20, with no less than U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra serving as speaker.

"The convocation ceremony was great! Students felt a surge of pride, optimism, and inspiration. It's always great to see students take the next step in their journey to become physicians, scientists, researchers, public health leaders, and healthcare administrators. I believe every student is excited to start their academic journey at Morehouse School of Medicine," said the 31-year-old.

The daughter of IT&E CNMI executive director Velma Palacios and the granddaughter of the late Veronica Manibusan Palacios and Francisco Borja Palacios received her bachelor's degree in Health Services Administration with a minor in Business in 2015 from Xavier University. She then completed her master's degree in Health Administration in 2023 from Louisiana State University.

Asked why she's pursuing a doctorate degree, Camacho said she believes that the program at Morehouse School of Medicine will prepare her to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's RyAnne Palacios Camacho.

make a significant impact in healthcare leadership.

"I want to have an opportunity to contribute to the healthcare system and ensure that individuals have the chance to receive comprehensive, accessible, and high-quality care. Morehouse School of Medicine's social mission to improve the health of the most vulnerable populations, diversify the health care workforce, advance primary care, and lead the creation and advancement of health equity to achieve health justice, was an important factor in my decision to pursue a doctoral degree there."

Camacho added that the university's Doctor of Health Administration program is deeply rooted in its underlying mission and is confident it will provide her with the knowledge, abilities, and resources essential for addressing and enhancing health equity in both Atlanta, Georgia—where she now currently resides—and her home islands of the CNMI.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Morehouse School of Medicine president and CEO Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra with the Doctor of Health Administration program.

gia—where she now currently resides—and her home islands of the CNMI.

"Everyone deserves a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as they can be, and it is my personal mission to ensure that underserved populations have access to the resources they need to do exactly that. My commitment to serve others and my passion for healthcare comes from my upbringing in the CNMI. This education will not only help me personally, but also have a positive impact on the people of the CNMI when I eventually return home."

As for her plans after her doctorate, Camacho said she wants to advance her career in healthcare administration.

"I'm looking at gaining more expertise in the operational side of healthcare, as well as healthcare policy, with hopes of becoming a senior executive at a hospital or other healthcare facilities.

Aside from her studies, Camacho also currently works for Piedmont Healthcare in

clinical operations at their corporate office in Atlanta. Piedmont Healthcare is the largest hospital system in Georgia with 25 hospitals serving its residents. Prior to Piedmont Healthcare, Camacho worked in the pediatric intensive care unit at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, a three-hospital system that is the leading pediatric healthcare provider in Georgia—the only freestanding pediatric healthcare system in the state, and one of the best in the Southeast.

Camacho said she last visited Saipan last May and its pristine beaches and her grandmother's house—where she spent a lot of time with family—are where she had the best memories of growing up on the island. *(Saipan Tribune)*

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Morehouse School of Medicine's Doctor of Health Administration Cohort 4 and 5 take a group picture with Dr. Reinetta Waldrop and Dr. Dorothy Bouldrick before the 40th Fall Convocation & White Coat and Pinning Ceremony on Sept. 20, 2024.



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CNMI GOVERNMENT
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INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-017-24

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR BID IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN, (IFB-017-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Fork & Spoon, LLC
THE POSITION: Baker
NO. OF VACANCY: 1
JOB LOCATION: Unit No. 10, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Mix and bake ingredients according to recipes to produce breads and other pastries; Observe color of products being baked, and adjust oven temperatures, humidity, and conveyor speeds accordingly; Set oven temperatures and place items into hot ovens for baking; Combine measured ingredients in bowls of mixing, blending, or cooking machinery; Measure and weigh flour and other ingredients to prepare batters, doughs, fillings, and icings, using scales and graduated containers, roll, knead, cut, and shape dough to form sweet rolls, pie crusts, tarts, cookies, and other products; Place dough in pans, molds, or on sheets, and bake in production ovens or on grills; Check the quality of raw materials to ensure that standards and specification are met; Adapt the quantity of ingredients to match the amount of items to be baked; Check equipment to ensure that it meets health and safety regulations and perform maintenance or cleaning, as necessary; and Does other related duties as assigned from time to time.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School Graduate.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 12 months of relevant work experience as a Baker

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business, Marketing or related field; and
- At least 24 months experience in Sales Management and Business Development.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-25

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 09, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 06, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$200.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 2024

CUC owes over \$10M in OPA fees, agrees to offset gov't utility arrears

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. owes the CNMI government over \$10 million for failure to pay its annual 1% Office of the Public Auditor fee dating back to 2022. As a result, CUC has agreed to offset the central government's utility arrears of \$10.9 million.

During CUC's monthly

board meeting yesterday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Department of Finance Secretary Tracy Norita met with CUC's board members for a constructive conversation on how CUC and the central government can help each other in terms of unpaid receivables and fees.

In an interview with CUC chief financial officer Betty Terlaje, she explained that while the central government has strug-

gled to make payments toward its utility arrears for the past few years, CUC too has held back on paying its required 1% OPA fee as it struggles to collect arrears from government agencies.

"The central government is struggling with its finances with the economy down and they have got bills to pay. The Governor, in February, made a commitment to the court that

they would be paying their bills moving forward but they have been struggling to make ends meet. Although they've made good effort to reconcile, they're currently behind three or four months of utility payments. On the other hand, CUC has held back on paying their 1% OPA fee because we aren't collecting from other agencies. We haven't paid it because we're struggling to collect, and we need all our funding to keep

our services going.

With both parties struggling, Terlaje said they have agreed to offset arrears on the understanding that the central government offsets its unpaid OPA fees.

"Last year, we started to pay our OPA fee and OPA asked if we could reconcile on the previous amounts. We told the government that we will work with them to reconcile it. We have come to an agreement with the government to offset

what they owe us (as of today they owe us \$10.9 million) and we know we owe them more than that. We are still reconciling that. So, we've agreed to offset \$10.9 million of their receivable," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

\$27.1M

From page 1

The funds will allow the Marianas Medicaid program to pay its bills to the Commonwealth hospital and private healthcare providers that have been piling up over the last two years. As a result, the Medicaid program will begin fiscal year 2025 on Oct. 1 debt-free.

"Our Medicaid program has been under severe financial pressure because so many people became eligible for this form of federal health insurance during the pandemic and during the on-going economic downturn in our islands. Medicaid's inability to pay its bills has put our hospital at risk and forced health providers to turn away patient. Today's action, appropriating an additional

\$27.1 million will put Medicaid finances back on track, so those in need of health services are cared for," Sablan said.

The continuing resolution passed yesterday keeps the U.S. government funded through Dec. 20, while Congress works to complete appropriations to cover all of fiscal 2025.

The 49-page resolution is generally free of new spending requests, but Sablan was able to make the case for a one-time funding boost just for the Marianas; and he won support from both Republican and Democratic leaders to include the money he asked for.

"I am most grateful to House Speaker Mike Johnson and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, as well as Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro for their understand-

ing of how dire the situation is for the Marianas Medicaid program. I also want to thank Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers and her Democratic counterpart Frank Pallone—and their staff—whom we have been updating on the financial predicament of Marianas Medicaid throughout this year. They understood what an emergency we face," he said.

Some 16,000 Marianas residents currently depend on the Medicaid program for their health care, down from 40,000 during the pandemic. The program helps those who are otherwise uninsured and who have low incomes and few personal assets.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ARRESTED

From page 1

items were traced to suspects Aaron Cabrera and Cain Stanley Songao Fitial. The two men were found responsible for the theft and were apprehended under warrants issued by Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio last Sept. 24. Charges include theft and conspiracy to commit theft, with both men held on a \$20,000 cash bail each.

A crucial breakthrough in the case came last Sept. 17 when one of the stolen golf carts was recovered. According to DPS, the discovery of the golf cart led investigators to the San Antonio residence of Anthony and Andrew Duenas, where more golf cart parts were seized. The parts were later confirmed to belong to Coral Ocean Resort, deepening the connection between the theft and the suspects.

Manacop said that in addition to Cabrera and Fitial, Anthony Duenas was charged with conspiracy to commit theft and receiving stolen property. His brother, Andrew Duenas, along with three other suspects—Brian Rios, Dino Mettao, and Terance Cabrera—were arrested on charges of receiving stolen property. Each of these individuals face a \$15,000 cash bail.

As of yesterday, authorities are still searching for an eighth suspect, Skyler Benavente, who is also facing charges of receiving stolen property. In addition, according to a testimony in court on Wednesday, Benavente is said to also have been the recipient of stolen goods in a recent case involving Shawn Reyes and Cherie Delos Santos.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

SHUTDOWN

From page 1

of Representative passed the Legislature's version of the fiscal year 2025 budget in the form of House Bill 23-115 House Draft 1, House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 2.

In a statement from Palacios yesterday, he said that the budget has reached his table, and it is under thorough review adding that he hopes to sign and return the bill to the Legislature by Monday, Sept. 30.

"I'm waking up really early in the morning, reviewing that budget, we've gotten to work on it right away. It's been two days since [the Legislature] passed [H.B. 23-115 HD1, HS1, SS1]. We're finalizing our thoughts through the weekend and hopefully by Monday it will leave my desk," he said.

Palacios said he wants to assure the public that there will be no government shutdown.

"The process is ongoing. I can assure you there won't be a shutdown," he said.

During a House regular session last Monday, the House of Representatives voted 18-1

in favor of passing H. B. 23-115, HD1, HS1, SS2. Only Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan) voted against the bill's passage.

The week prior, the Senate passed their version of the fiscal year 2025 budget with a few floor amendments on top of the amendments passed by the Senate Fiscal Affairs committee.

Following an over three-hour Senate regular session last Sept. 18, the full Senate body passed their version of the fiscal 2025 budget; or H. B. 23-115, HD1, HS1, SS2.

After nearly an hour of discussion, the Senate unanimously voted to pass HB 23-115 HD1 HS1 SS2 past 4pm.

As part of their discussion, the Senate passed six floor amendments to include the addition of Section 609 to cap salary increases to service-contract employees as well as amendments pertaining to funds collected from the Department of Public Lands to be transferred to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

33%

From page 1

Commonwealth.

Serving as guest speaker of the Marianas Business Network mixer last Wednesday at the Tom Yum Restaurant in San Antonio (*see related story on Page 2*), she presented Labor's Job Vacancy Data-Yearly Comparison where it showed that from 34,246 in 2019, JVs had a precipitous drop to 20,991 in 2020.

It went down further in 2020 and 2021 at 16,017 and 18,699, respectively, before JVs had a resurgence in 2023 with a four-year high of 23,002.

In terms of CWs making up the workforce, Staffler said it was 27% in 2019, 55% in 2020, 35% in 2021, before settling back to 27% in 2022. Statistics for 2023 are not yet available.

It's interesting to note that JVs significant 53% drop in 2020 was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but curiously the year also had the highest percentage of CW workers in the labor force at 55%.

Staffler said data gaps hinder precise job creation count from 34,000 impacted jobs, adding that the change in U.S. law in 2019 shifted focus from construction to installation, maintenance, and supply. She said the construction industry remains the primary driver of job loss issues in the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com


DOL

From page 2


committed and reliable workers, added Staffler.

She then encourages everyone to sign up with WIA at cnmiwioa@dol.gov.mp or call (670) 488-1720/2312 to avail of their programs.

The Marianas Business Network, a community-driven consortium of small businesses on Saipan, is committed to mutual support, networking, and professional growth. With no formal membership fees, it provides a platform for business owners, freelancers, and entrepreneurs to connect and thrive.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-027

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 10, 2024 at 9:30 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference, Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Island Wide Road Restoration" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 28, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 11, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water and Wastewater Division Manager via email, rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, P&S Senior Administrative Technician, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz  \$1⁷⁹	DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 25 LBS  \$19⁹⁹	FLAME BEER BOTTLE 330ml  \$1⁹⁹	SAPPORO PREMIUM BEER BOTTLE 355ml  \$2²⁹	JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4 PACK  \$22⁹⁹/cs.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The connection between green energy and high power bills

For years, Nevada has put affordable energy on the back burner. Now, ratepayers are getting burned.

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy recently put out research on energy bills. In Las Vegas, it found that a quarter of low-income households spend 12.6% or more of their families' income on home energy. The median for low-income households is a more manageable 5.5%. According to the group, if energy costs more than 10% of household income, the energy burden is deemed severe.

In practical terms, that can mean there isn't enough money to go around. Low-income individuals sometimes must choose between keeping the power on and paying for household necessities. But during Las Vegas summers, air conditioning is a necessity, too.

For middle-income families, high power bills may not be a crisis, but they limit spending on other priorities. As the Review-Journal's Emerson Drewes recently reported, these high prices are even hurting local charities. That includes Living Grace Homes, which helps young homeless mothers.

This wasn't the future green-energy that snake oil salesmen promised Nevada. For years, these advocates assured voters and elected officials that green energy mandates would lower prices. A 2019 fact sheet from the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council and Western Resource Advocates, said, "A strong RPS lowers costs."

RPS stands for renewable portfolio standard. As passed by voters and the Legislature, Nevada has to purchase half its power from renewable sources by 2030. The campaign to enshrine this in the state constitution pledged that it "would save Nevadans money."

We're still waiting.

The problem is that solar energy isn't reliable. The sun sets every night, and people still want to run their air conditioners and use their appliances. Some drivers want to charge their EVs, too. Along with paying for solar, Nevada has to build new natural gas plants to back it up and supplement it.

Solar power isn't even always available during the day. That's why NV Energy is building Greenlink, a massive transmission line project. It needs to connect clean energy projects in different parts of the state to improve reliability. That project will cost more than \$4 billion. It's so expensive that it'll take 70 years or more to pay off.

In June 2004, residential power in Nevada cost 9.66 cents per kilowatt-hour. In June 2014, it cost 12.83 cents per kWh. In June 2024, it was 15.5 cents per kWh.

Not exactly the savings you were promised. To lower power bills, Nevada needs to pare back its green energy mandates.

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Notch on your belt (masawan omw fa)

It isn't often that I get to participate in a debate between candidates for a seat in U.S. Congress; in fact, I've only ever done it once and that was just recently (a little over a week ago) in the U.S. Delegate Debate hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Overall, I think the audience got what one might expect from a highly publicized exercise in rigid speed-dating with bachelors and bachelorettes (numbers one through five) trying to win the hearts and minds of the CNMI people through a series of timed responses meant to gauge our respective hearts and minds for the people of the CNMI.

No doubt each of us presented ourselves the best we know how and, if I'm being honest (at the risk of sounding too self-aggrandizing), I believe more than ever that I made the right decision with entering the race because I bring a kind of representation for the voters which is markedly different from the others. I hope that was evident from the so-called debate. Still, it is fair to say that each of us suffered through some cringe-worthy moments—perhaps due to brain fog and, in some cases, due to political clichés that border on patronizing, if not insulting. For the sake of the CNMI, I hope each of us is able to self-reflect and acknowledge what those might be for ourselves and make adjustments going forward. It would run contrary to my sense of civility to point out the specifics for the others, so I won't except to say again that my fellow candidates are not representative of me—we bring a different set of perspectives and experiences to the table—and I'm glad I get to bring another type of choice to the voters. It is safe to say also, that we can all take "perfection" off the offering table. Still for emphasis, I personally do not want to be represented on the national stage in the manner with which my fellow candidates have shown thus far.

As for me, I've been beating myself up over why and how I couldn't respond in a manner befitting my general knowledge and beliefs on certain questions to topics that I feel strongly about. Specifically, as an example, it feels a bit embarrassing (particularly as a self-proclaimed educator) to be asked a question relating to education and not be able to grasp my thoughts well-enough in the moment to utter a coherent response at least not to any degree worthy of my degree in education of all things. The time-crunch was frustrating. In retrospect I think it was a matter of trying to respond from the perspective of a wanna-be politician as opposed to a seasoned educator who might have said that the best thing our politicians can do for our educational institutions is stay out of them. More specifically, our delegate needs to facilitate federal programming and funding for education, but then step back and let the educators educate. I'll chalk it up to a lesson learned though I stand behind my attempts to say that our educational efforts need to hold meaningful ties with our workforce development.

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is a former director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.



I had a moment too on a question relating to how as delegate I might be able to help veterans to which I rambled on about my frustrations and typical lamenting about the plight of veterans and lack of sufficient care forgetting to acknowledge a "little-agency-that-could" and its current efforts to help veterans as we speak. The Center for Living Independently through the efforts of their small, but committed staff have managed to link up with a federally funded program that can pay for caretakers of eligible veterans with disabling conditions. More specifically, it can pay (a livable wage I might add) to spouses and the likes already providing care for their veteran family members essentially killing multiple birds with one stone including, but not limited to ensuring loving care for our veterans in need and allowing an oft forgotten group of family caretakers to be contributing members of our community's workforce. So, it's programming like that which our delegate should support and/or facilitate.

Speaking of clichés, hindsight is 20/20 and I'd like to think I could have presented a better version of myself in those moments, but the simple fact is that "No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man" (Aristotle).

My unlikely, if not unorthodox, lead up to and now run for U.S. Congress started out with me wanting to be a better version of myself and to give back in return. For those who may have followed, my "cockamamie scheme" was to run for Congress if I could lose "52 lbs (because I'm 52 years old, of course)" in a relatively short amount of time and, to everyone's (including my own) surprise, I managed to lose (and am presently see-sawing) between 58 and 56 lbs down from where I started. Someone jokingly (funny, not funny) pointed out that I had essentially been walking around with large sac of rice for all the time leading up to losing the weight. Coincidentally, we were also asked a question on the topic of nutrition at the recent debate to which I will say again that our general population needs to be better educated on the issue of nutrition and healthy living. I feel terrible that I, given the privileges of knowing and being taught better, have been such a bad example

See NOTCH on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Do they even teach civics anymore?

We have all seen the ubiquitous “man on the street” interviews where young people struggle to identify the branches of government or their elected representatives. And the headlines announcing American students’ poor performance on national civics assessments are hard to miss.

Ultimately, this leads to a dreaded question many of us in the civic education space are asked too many times: Do schools even teach civics anymore?

For many American kids, particularly younger students, the simple answer is “no.” They are not being taught civics—or, in some cases, not enough civics to matter.

But let’s stop blaming the kids or their teachers. Instead, we all need to look in the mirror and reflect on what we expect from our schools and what it will take to drive meaningful change.

The lack of civic education among elementary students is particularly dire.

A 2018 study funded by the National Science Foundation found elementary classrooms only spend an average of 16-21 minutes a day on social studies. We can be reasonably certain that little—if any—of that time is devoted to civics.

Years ago, the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies warned some elementary classrooms were spending as little as 20 minutes a week on social studies, which the group’s president called a “serious civic crisis.”

And just last year, there was great dismay when the National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as the Na-

tion’s Report Card, found only 22% of eighth-graders scored proficient or above in civics.

But buried within that report were some more distressing truths. Less than half of eighth-graders were taking a class mainly focused on civics or government, and only 29% had a teacher whose primary responsibility was teaching civics.

These eighth graders were all tested on civics, but whether some of them actually studied the topic in school is another matter.

At the Bill of Rights Institute, we work with more than 76,000 civics and history teachers nationwide. These are talented, capable teachers, working to help young people learn about our government, America’s founding principles, and their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

But many of these teachers are not getting enough support, and civics is often deprioritized and treated as an afterthought in the overall school curricula.

It is easy to cast blame for why civics is not being taught more in schools. Some point to a heavy emphasis on subjects like math or science, or even time-consuming federal and state mandates.

The more useful exercise is determining where we go from here.

Civic education provides students the unique opportunity to understand how our nation and communities function and their roles in civil society. They learn to think critically, engage civilly and internalize founding principles like liberty, justice and equality.

All students deserve this knowledge, not just some students.

By **DAVID J. BOBB**

The Fulcrum

David J. Bobb is president and CEO of the Bill of Rights Institute, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that advances civic and history education.



Reprioritizing civics will require a groundswell of local support. Real change can only happen locally, where most decisions about curricula and resources are made.

We can all help create this groundswell.

As a first step, talk to local teachers about the specific challenges they face, in terms of resources, priorities or time, in incorporating more civics in the classroom. You will find many teachers share your frustrations.

Second, let school board officials and candidates know you want more time and resources invested in civic education. A 2021 study from researchers at Harvard, Northeastern, Northwestern and Rutgers found only 4% of individuals attended a school board meeting in the past six months.

We need more community members off the sidelines and in the game.

Our schools reflect our priorities, but we must communicate those priorities. If we want young people to become informed, civically engaged citizens, it is time to speak up and give civics the attention it deserves.

School kids, get off your damn phones! Trust me, you will thank us later

LOS ANGELES—At Venice High School’s recent Back to School night, I was impressed that so many classrooms had signs forbidding students to use their cellphones.

But how, I wondered, do teachers handle kids who break the rule? “I try not to be punitive,” said my niece’s ethnic studies teacher.

Well, why not? I wanted to ask. Why not just send them to the vice principal’s office the way teachers did in the good old days?

A few days later, my ninth-grader proudly showed me a TikTok dance video that she and her friend made in their math classroom.

“Why were you filming yourselves in class when phones are banned?” I demanded.

“Oh, it was before the bell rang,” she said, “and the teacher said it was OK.”

Seriously? Maybe it’s the teacher who needs a talking-to from the vice principal. (I’m kidding, Mr. P!)

About a week later, I found myself among hundreds of parents in a Zoom meeting that was billed as a chance for Los Angeles Unified School District parents to discuss the district’s new policy banning smartphones during the school day.

It soon became clear that parents were not being asked whether they support a cellphone ban—the Board of Education passed the resolution in June—but how best to implement it when it takes effect in January. That realization prompted one father to snap, “This whole meeting was stupid and pointless.”

It’s true that the district could have done a better job explaining the meeting’s purpose, but it was valuable to hear what parents think, especially parents who also happen to be teachers, who bemoaned the stress and distraction of policing cellphone use in their classrooms.

“They are not wrong that we didn’t get their input,” L.A. Unified board member Nick Melvoin told me unapologetically. Melvoin, a former teacher, spearheaded the resolution. “This is a policy that’s in the best interest of kids and teachers. Every school that has done this says, ‘I wish we’d done this earlier.’”

While there seemed to be general agreement that the ban was a positive step, I was surprised by how many parents strongly objected.

Negative reaction ranged from “My child needs her phone at all times to control her anxiety” to, basically, “Over my dead body.” One parent said she didn’t care what the district implemented, she and her child were not going to go along with it.

Sadly and predictably, a lot of the parents fretted about school shootings and the need for kids to be able to let their parents know they’re safe. But let’s be honest, phones don’t make people safe.

Anyway, said Melvoin, in an emergency “it’s much safer for everyone for kids not to be texting, and for adults to do their job. Part of this is trying to change the culture around addiction to our phones. We want to check in with our kids all the time, but you shouldn’t. They have to develop some independence, and even a vibration in your pocket or book bag distracts you.”

The good news is that L.A. Unified is not alone. Many private schools already ban phones, and a handful of states have adopted no-phone policies.

In August, the California Legislature passed a bill requiring school districts to develop policies limiting the use of smartphones by July 2026.

“Quite frankly, school boards in general need to be pushed into this,” said Democratic state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), a co-author of the bill. “There’s always reasons to drag your feet, but the data shows that phones lead to learning loss, lower scores, increased depression, physical fights, less focus, less ability to learn. We need to shift the culture to a place where this is not acceptable.”

And let me add, this is a problem that extends beyond the classroom door.

Whenever they aren’t in class, kids are on their phones at school, ignoring each other in favor of texting, Snapping and whatever else distracts them from face-to-face interaction.

So, how to get kids off their phones?

Some schools collect phones in the morning using phone lockers, while others supply magnetic pouches that stay in kids’ possession but can be unlocked only at school exits or by teachers and administrators. In a big school like Venice High, Melvoin said, pouches would seem to make the most sense. A pouch for every student would cost the district about \$6 million, according

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**

Los Angeles Times



to Melvoin, a drop in its \$15 billion annual budget. “The return on this investment will be huge.”

The 10-year-old Mar Vista-based company Yondr, a pioneer in the phone pouch field, first created them to free live performers from the distracting and constant use of cellphones in the audience. Many artists have adopted the practice of shutting down cellphones, including Alicia Keys, Guns N’ Roses, the Lumineers, Dave Chappelle and Chris Rock.

Then teachers began reaching out to the company, its director Sarah Leader told me. Now the pouches are being used in thousands of schools in all 50 states and in 27 countries. The company estimates that they will be used by more than 2 million students by the end of this year, double the number at the end of 2023.

“We are not taking something away,” said Leader. “We are giving kids access to a phone-free education.” Yondr works with schools to train staff, and to make sure kids and their parents understand how and why a phone-free day can improve the school experience.

Turns out, there are all kinds of unexpected benefits to getting kids off their phones. Schools that use the pouches are seeing more meals eaten in their cafeterias, Leader said, “because kids feel better about eating when they are not being recorded.” Some schools, she added, report that more books are being checked out of the library.

Banning cellphones in schools won’t solve all the problems wrought by a technology that has gotten way out of hand.

But wouldn’t you agree that it’s a great first step?

NOTCH

From page 6

on this front, but again... new waters, new man.






As for the title of this article, Americans use the idiomatic expression of “notch on your belt” when referring to some kind of new accomplishment or experience. The islanders I grew up with

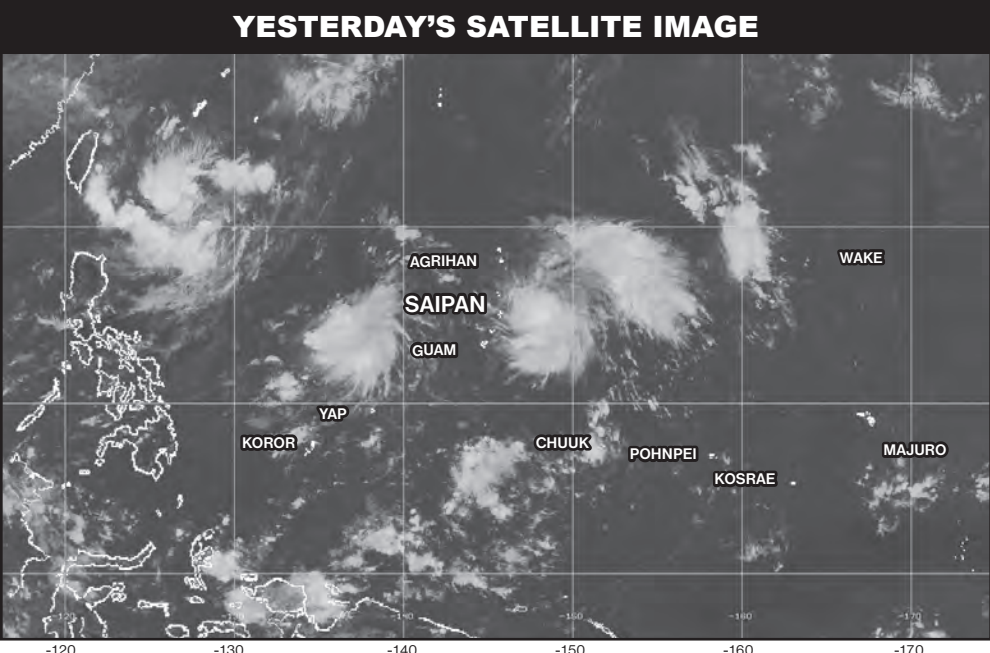
use the expression of, “masawan omw fa”—loosely translated, “the fill on your fish string”—referring to the practice of threading fish on a string (usually around your waist) when catching fish—the idea being that each new fish is a new experience in and of itself. I can’t help, but entertain myself and chuckle at the thought of and correlation between the figurative notches on my belt—the debate and my candidacy for Congress being examples—and the literal notches from having poked new holes

(four new ones to be exact) on my belt to keep my pants from falling down. To be honest, I’m not sure which of the notches make me feel more proud.

I’m a fisherman by nature and am hoping, against all odds, to reel in the trust and confidence of our voters in November, so perhaps the next big fish on my string will be the actual seat of the CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress. Please consider a vote for RAYPHAND this coming election.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°



Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers remain in the area, and are still closer to and more often hitting Tinian and Saipan. Invest Area 95W, a little east of Saipan, is now the subject of a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert. The effects are expected to be minor as initial forecasts have it headed toward the Far Northern Mariana Islands, maybe near Agrihan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Palau	Fair	85° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Fair	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Fair	86° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:06 AM	6:09 PM	
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM	
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM	
Monday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM	
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM	
DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:20 AM	2:44 PM	-
Saturday	2:15 AM	3:27 PM	-
Sunday	3:06 AM	4:05 PM	-
Monday	3:55 AM	4:40 PM	-
Tuesday	4:42 AM	5:13 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Fair	78° / 60°	
Hong Kong	Fair	88° / 78°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 69°	
Manila	Fair	93° / 80°	
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
New York	Cloudy	67° / 62°	
Osaka	Rain	88° / 75°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Busan	Rain	79° / 68°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	82° / 66°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	78° / 58°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 58°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 69°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	83° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	73° / 64°	
TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:07 AM	High Tide	1.50	
9:58 AM	Low Tide	0.06	
5:36 PM	High Tide	1.75	
11:15 PM	Low Tide	1.15	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via	
Guam				
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	
ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22	
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 7 Sep 23-29	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Deleon Guerrero named to APAHE board of directors

Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, president of Northern Marianas College, was recently appointed to the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education board of directors, a national organization dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

In addition to improving the outcomes of AAPI students, APAHE promotes and supports the hiring, retention, and advancement of qualified AAPI faculty, staff, and administrators in colleges and universities, while calling for a better public understanding of issues affecting AAPI in higher education.

The appointment places Deleon Guerrero among a select group of national educational leaders charged with advocating for policies and strategies that promote higher education access and success for AAPI students across the United States. As a recognized Pacific Islander leader in higher education, Deleon Guerrero will focus on addressing educational inequities, enhanc-



NMC
Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero has recently been selected to be a member of the board of directors for Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education

ing student support services, and strengthening institutional practices that benefit AAPI students and Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions.

"I am deeply honored to join the APAHE board of directors and represent the CNMI in advocating for greater opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islander students," said Deleon Guerrero. "This appointment is a testament of the great work being done by our entire Proa Tribe at NMC, and I intend to bring our island wisdom from the Pacific to the national discussion in order to lift the tide for the entire AAPI community and to ensure that all students regardless of their background have access

to quality education."

As president of NMC, Deleon Guerrero was recognized as a national CEO awardee, leading initiatives on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Pacific, expanding student support services through NMC's AANAPISI program Project PROA, and promoting regenerative development with NMC-CREES through the CNMI Green Growth Initiative.

The APAHE board, which includes leaders from various sectors of higher education around the country, will focus on developing policies that address the unique challenges faced by AAPI students, including issues related to representation, financial aid, and cultural support. **(PR)**

Rota SBDC, BOG to host workshop on commercial, biz loans

ROTA—The Rota Small Business Development Center at the Northern Marianas College Rota Center, in collaboration with Bank of Guam, is excited to announce an upcoming workshop focused on commercial and business loans. This informative session will take place on Oct. 18, 2024, from 10am to 12pm at the Rota NMC Center, Room A1.

Led by Kalistus Rangil, the credit manager of the Commercial Banking Group at Bank of Guam, this informative session will cover essential topics, including the application process for business loans and key criteria that lenders consider when reviewing applications. Attendees will gain valuable insights that can enhance their chances of securing financing for their business ventures.

Register here: <https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019170>.

marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019170.

"This workshop is a significant opportunity for our local entrepreneurs," said Charlene Ogo, director of the Rota Small Business Development Center.

"Access to funding has always been a crucial topic in our business community. By partnering with Bank of Guam, we aim to empower our clients with the knowledge they need to navigate the loan process and feel confident in their financing decisions."

This workshop is an excellent opportunity for those looking to expand their business knowledge and secure the funding necessary for growth and success. Whether you are a seasoned entrepreneur or just starting, the session will provide practical tips and guidance.

For more information, con-

tact Ogo at (670) 237-6783 or email charlene.ogo@marianas.edu. For more information, visit www.cnmisbdc.com or contact us at (670) 237-6888/cnmisbdc@marianas.edu.

Follow Rota SBDC on social media for the latest updates: Instagram @cnmisbdc and Facebook at CNMI Small Business Development Center Network. **(PR)**

Chalan Kanoa Cemetery cleanup needs volunteers

The Saipan Mayor's Office and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Environmental Health Division Program will conduct a cleanup of the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery this Saturday, Sept. 28, 8am-4pm, and is calling upon community members to join.

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho invites all community members, especially those with loved ones laid to rest in the cemetery, to take part in this initiative. This is an opportunity for our community to unite once again and honor our departed family and friends by caring for their final resting place.

Those families or individuals who wish to participate in the cleanup effort must contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208 so as to help SMO staff calculate the number of participants and to plan accordingly.

For any questions or more information, please contact the Saipan Mayor's office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor's Office is also open through lunch. **(PR)**



Camacho

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Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	Civil Action No. 24-0214
DAVID AYUYU SAN NICOLAS, Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
	Date: October 17, 2024
	Time: 10:00 a.m.
	Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Claudia SN. Larson, has filed a *Petition For Letters of Administration* in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of September 2024.

/s/
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

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Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	Civil Action No. 24-0216
MARIANO AYUYU SAN NICOLAS, Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
	Date: October 17, 2024
	Time: 10:00 a.m.
	Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Claudia SN. Larson, has filed a *Petition For Letters of Administration* in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

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Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of September 2024.

/s/
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

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Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	Civil Action No. 24-0217
RAMON AYUYU SAN NICOLAS, Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
	Date: October 17, 2024
	Time: 10:00 a.m.
	Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Claudia SN. Larson, has filed a *Petition For Letters of Administration* in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of September 2024.

/s/
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

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Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	Civil Action No. 24-0218
JOSE AYUYU SAN NICOLAS, Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
	Date: October 17, 2024
	Time: 10:00 a.m.
	Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Claudia SN. Larson, has filed a *Petition For Letters of Administration* in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of September 2024.

/s/
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

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2024 Guam Toys for Tots campaign commences

GUAM—Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz is proud to announce the start of Guam's 15th Toys for Tots campaign. Marines from MCB Camp Blaz will deliver toy collection boxes to sites across Guam during the first week of October. Toy collection will conclude the first week of December. The CNMI 8th Toys for Tots Campaign will kick off on Oct. 2.

"I'm excited for this year's Toys for Tots campaign," said Col. Ernest Govea, MCB

Camp Blaz commanding officer. "The campaign is something we prepare for all year, and our Blaz marines and sailors are looking forward to working alongside our community partners to make this year a success. Last year we had a record-breaking year, and I know this year is going to be just as successful."

Last year almost 12,000 toys, stocking stuffers, and books were collected on Guam, going to children in need and spreading a message

of happiness and hope during the holiday season. At the conclusion of the campaign, approximately 16,500 toys, stocking stuffers, and books were distributed throughout the islands of Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Our island community has been extremely generous in its support of the Toys for Tots campaign over the years. Even when times were lean, our residents have been the most supportive, which has been amazing to witness!" said Catherine

Castro, president of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. "Each year there are different circumstances for our families and maybe this season will be harder for some than years past. Your purchase of even one new and unwrapped toy for a child in need will leave a lasting impression that will never be forgotten. There are many places across the island that will collect your gift for a child needing hope this Christmas. We send our warmest Si Yu'os Ma'ase to our business partners and island residents for your continued support of the Toys for Tots program this holiday season."

The Toys for Tots campaign relies on widespread support and generous contributions of individuals, businesses, and communities. The 2024 campaign encourages everyone to get involved, whether through toy donations or serving at a donation location.

"We often get asked how

families in need can sign their children up as recipients of toys from the program," said Castro. "Families are encouraged to contact Catholic Social Service and The Salvation Army to sign their children up by the first week of December for toy distribution the week before Christmas. Please feel free to contact the Chamber at (671) 472-6311 if there are questions about how to participate as a recipient of this year's program."

To participate and donate to Toys for Tots, bring a newly purchased, unwrapped toy to one of the many businesses or organizations who have volunteered to be drop-off locations. For a complete list of locations and important dates, please visit the Chamber's website at GuamChamber.com.gu; the MCB Camp Blaz Facebook page, [@MCBcampblaz](https://www.facebook.com/MCBcampblaz); or the MCB Camp Blaz Instagram page, [@mcbcampblaz](https://www.instagram.com/mcbcampblaz). For a list of locations on Saipan,

contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150 or visit their Facebook page [@SPNChamber](https://www.facebook.com/SPNChamber). For more information about MCB Camp Blaz's Toys for Tots Campaign please contact Capt. Ryan West at (671) 355-8080 or email ryan.west@usmc.mil.

For families on Guam who are in need and would like to request toys please contact either the Salvation Army at (671) 477-9872 or Catholic Social Services at (671) 635-1442.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a not-for-profit charity with a 77-year history. Last year the Marine Toys for Tots Program fulfilled the holiday hopes and dreams of 10.3 million less fortunate children in over 800 communities nationwide by distributing 25.5 million toys, books, and games. For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org. (PR)

Radewagen gives House speech on protecting religious freedoms worldwide

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) speaks in the House about the importance of protecting religious freedoms worldwide.



WASHINGTON, DC—Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) spoke on the House floor on Monday, emphasizing the importance of U.S. efforts to protect religious freedoms worldwide, while serving as floor manager for House passage of the reauthorization of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, S. 3764, a bipartisan effort which passed by a vote of 365-20.

"Religious persecution is a tragic reality in many parts of the world—whether it be against Uyghur Muslims in China, Christian minorities in parts of Africa and the Middle East, the Baha'i in Iran, or religious communities attempting to worship without official control by repressive regimes in Burma, China, or North Korea; and anti-Semitism is on the rise," said Radewagen. "This bipartisan bill, which unanimously passed the Senate, will continue the good work of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, or USCIRF. Congress created USCIRF as an independent federal entity in 1998; although the fundamental freedom of religion was under siege around the world, it did not receive enough attention in U.S. foreign policy."

She continued, "USCIRF is a body of experts who

speak out on behalf of persecuted believers of any faith, and push for accountability beyond what the State Department or the White House may view as diplomatically comfortable. The Commission's independent voice remains critical today, as the State Department too often pushes religious freedom to the side. Although the law requires the Department to designate 'Countries of Particular Concern' for religious freedom violations, their list of CPC countries never includes all the countries that meet the statutory criteria."

"Thankfully USCIRF continues its truth-telling to identify the other persecutors that should be designated. Those countries include Vietnam, where communist authorities severely repress Christians, Buddhists, and other believers who attempt to worship outside of state control. They also include Nigeria, where Islamist militias murder Christians with impunity. They include Afghanistan, where the brutal Taliban have re-taken power and moved that country back to an intolerant darkness. If any countries are 'Countries of Particular Concern' for serious violations of religious freedom, those should be among them," Radewagen stated.

"S. 3764 is a simple extension of USCIRF's statutory

authority so that the Commission can continue its bipartisan, non-sectarian work on behalf of our nation's 'first freedom'—religious liberty," said Radewagen. "I am very pleased that this is a clean reauthorization and does not include any of the previous attempts by some in the other body to make USCIRF more partisan, or to dilute its mandate with extraneous issues. Through robust oversight, we also must work to ensure that USCIRF remains focused on its true, bipartisan statutory mandate. Namely, 'the annual and ongoing review of the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom.'"

"I want to thank Senator (Marco) Rubio and his bipartisan colleagues who introduced this bill in the Senate, where it received unanimous support. I also want to recognize the important work of the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs human rights subcommittee, the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. (Christopher) Smith, the author of the House-side reauthorization. He has been a leader on religious freedom issues throughout his 43-year career in this House," she concluded. "We need to pass this bill immediately, to help ensure that freedom of religion—under threat from extremists and authoritarian governments around the world—remains front and center." (PR)

Yap doubles visitor arrivals in 2024

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia—Yap's tourism sector continues to rebound with visitor arrivals in 2024 so far almost doubling the number for the same period in 2023. The island welcomed 1,825 international stayover visitors between January to August 2024, compared to 945 in 2023, a 93% increase.

"We are thrilled to see this growth in our visitor numbers, which indicates that our comprehensive advertising, public relations, social media, and trade show attendance campaign over the past year and a half in the Guam, U.S. and European markets is generating impressive results," said Yap Visitors Bureau general manager Susan Gooliyan.

Visitor arrivals will likely increase next year with Yap hosting the 2025 Micronesia Expo, which will run from July 21-25, 2025.

The 4th Micronesia Expo is designed to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of all states that comprise the Federated States of Micronesia. Planning activities have already started in terms of determining venues, activities and travel arrangements for participants. This year's Expo was held in Chuuk State in July and Yap was represented by a strong delegation of 40 persons.

Meanwhile, the main and outer islands of Yap welcomed 80 Australian cruise passengers on board the *Coral Geographer* from Sept. 3 to 6, 2024.

The Yap Visitors Bureau provided greeter services the visitors, as well as branded promotional giveaways. A



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A greeter for the *Coral Geographer* Cruise visit to the main and outer islands of Yap last month.

special Air Nauru flight was arranged from Cairns, Australia to pick up the 80 departing passengers and drop off passengers who were joining the cruise in Yap. The *Coral Geographer* was the second cruise ship to visit Yap in 2024 and the island is actively targeting small niche cruise lines that ply the Pacific area.

Yap is an island in the Federated States of Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean that is ringed by spectacular coral reefs and famous for its scuba diving with giant manta

rays, sharks and mandarin fish. Other key activities on the island include kayaking, hiking, deep-sea fishing and exploring the many World War II historical sites.

Yap is also uniquely famous for its stone money (huge disks of stone, which are still used today in major transactions), strong traditional culture and way of life, and welcoming residents. A short flight away from Guam or Palau, this Pacific gem is one of the tourism industry's best kept secrets. For more information: www.visit Yap.com. (PR)

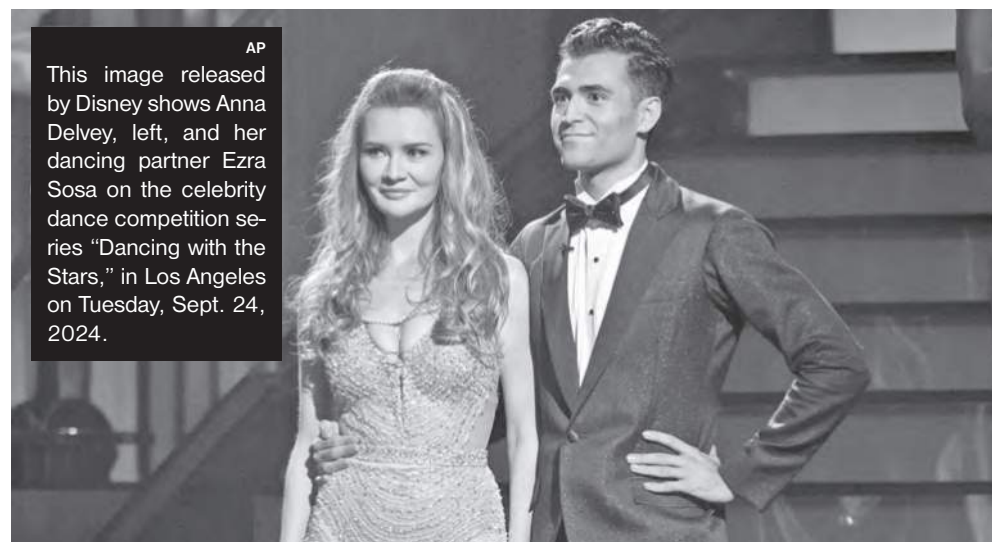
Life & Style

Anna Sorokin eliminated from 'Dancing With the Stars'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anna Sorokin, the convicted con artist who swindled banks, hotels and friends under the guise of being a “heiress” named Anna Delvey, has reached the end of her run on “Dancing With the Stars.”

As a controversial casting choice on the competition reality series, Sorokin had to don an ankle monitor on stage. Described as the “notorious ankle bracelet fashionista” in the announcement of her casting, Sorokin is under house arrest for an impending deportation case.

While she was released from prison in February 2021, immigration authorities picked her up shortly after she got out, claiming she overstayed her visa and must be returned



AP
This image released by Disney shows Anna Delvey, left, and her dancing partner Ezra Sosa on the celebrity dance competition series “Dancing with the Stars,” in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024.

to her native Germany. The “Inventing Anna” inspiration was in ICE custody for over a year before a judge cleared the way for her to switch to home

confinement in October 2022 while she fights the deportation case.

After her performance to “Suddenly I See” by KT Tun-

stall on Tuesday with dance pro Ezra Sosa, Sorokin was cut from the series. Eliminations started in the series’ second week and are based

on votes from viewers.

Asked by the hosts Tuesday night what she was going to take away from the competition, Delvey pointedly said: “Nothing.”

She doubled down on “Good Morning America” on Wednesday saying her favorite part of the experience was “getting eliminated.”

Sorokin and Sosa spoke with The Associated Press last week after her initial performance. On dancing with her ankle monitor, which was bedazzled to match her costume, Sorokin said, “It’s actually not a big issue at all. It’s pretty light and I asked them to make it tight so it doesn’t dangle. So it’s not so bad.”

Changes to Sorokin’s house arrest conditions to accommodate filming the

show in Los Angeles were unknown and it remains unclear how her lengthy deportation case will proceed.

Also eliminated on Tuesday’s episode was Tori Spelling, an actor best known for “Beverly Hills, 90210.” After her elimination with partner Pasha Pashkov, Spelling described her time on the show as a “crazy transformational journey” and noted that she’s glad she faced her fears despite being cut.

“I just kept looking at my kids who were sitting in the audience and I was just like, ‘I love you. I love you.’ And I wanted them to know that whatever happens, ‘I love you and thank you for being proud of me,’” Spelling said. “It goes fast and you’re in your head because it is scary. It’s really scary.”

Last original member of Kool & the Gang to represent group the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—You can call the music of Kool & the Gang funky or R&B, soulful or disco, pop or dance. What you cannot call it is partisan.

When Iowa’s delegation at this summer’s Democratic National Convention in Chicago announced its vote for the Harris-Walz ticket, they played “Celebration.” That was the same song picked a few weeks earlier when Donald Trump reached the number of delegates he needed to win the Republican nomination in Milwaukee.

“The Democrats and Republicans, they’re both using ‘Celebration,’” Robert “Kool” Bell, bass guitarist and co-founder of Kool & the Gang marveled recently. “Our music is for everybody.”

After fueling so many other people’s political and non-

political parties, it will be time for Kool & the Gang to finally celebrate when they are inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame next month in Cleveland.

“It feels wonderful, man, after all these years,” says Bell, who was born in Youngstown, Ohio. “When we first started, we didn’t know where we were going, but we loved what we were doing.”

Bell is the only living member of the original lineup, following a cluster of recent deaths, including drummer and songwriter George Brown in 2023, saxophonist, flutist and percussionist Dennis Thomas in 2021 and Bell’s composer brother, Ronald, in 2020.

“That is a bittersweet sort of feeling,” said Bell, who noted the original lineup in the early ‘60s was nicknamed “The



AP
In this Feb. 12, 2017 file photo Dennis D.T. Thomas, from left, George Brown, Robert Bell, and Ronald Bell, of the musical group Kool & The Gang, arrive at the 59th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center, in Los Angeles.

Magnificent Seven.” “And now there’s only one left—and that’s me.”

The opening of the Hall of Fame door for Kool & the

Gang coincided with a change in hall leadership in 2023 that led to invites for key legacy acts like Foreigner, Peter Frampton and Cher.

Rapper Fatman Scoop died of heart disease, medical examiner says

HAMDEN, Conn. (AP)—Hip-hop artist Fatman Scoop, who collapsed onstage while performing in Connecticut last month, died of heart disease, the state medical examiner’s office has determined.

The official cause of death for the performer, born Isaac Freeman III, was hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, a spokesperson for the Connecticut medical examiner’s office said Wednesday.

Fatman Scoop, 56, collapsed while performing in Hamden on Aug. 30 and was taken to a hospital.

His family said later on Instagram that “the world lost a radiant soul, a beacon on

stage and in life.”

A New York City-born rapper and hype man, Fatman Scoop was known for his single “Be Faithful,” which topped charts in Europe in the early 2000s, and for his contributions to hits by Missy Elliott, Mariah Carey and others.

His family cherished him as “the laughter in our lives, a constant source of support, unwavering strength and courage,” his relatives said.

“His music made us dance and embrace life with positivity,” his family members said. “His joy was infectious and the generosity he extended to all will be deeply missed but never forgotten.”

Daughter’s decision-making impacted by dad’s suicide

DEAR ABBY: My husband’s uncle died by suicide in his home six months ago. It was a shock to the entire family. Since the funeral, we have helped to settle his affairs, including cleaning out his home to get it ready for sale.

My husband’s cousin (the uncle’s daughter) has had an understandably difficult time coming to terms with the loss of her father and has decided to purchase the house and reside there. She hasn’t sought grief counseling and uses social media as a therapeutic outlet.

Many in the family believe she’s making a mistake spurred by grief. She wants to hold family gatherings and holiday celebrations there. Those of us who helped clean out the house do not want to go back there. The loss is still recent, and the memories of the scene are still fresh.

How can we tell this cousin we are uncomfortable visiting the home without causing her more grief? We want to be supportive, but it’s just too hard to walk back into the place where he ended his life.

TRAUMATIZED IN MISSOURI

DEAR TRAUMATIZED: Your husband’s cousin is trying hard to deal with her grief, however ill-advised her method

may be. Everyone has been supportive, but someone needs to speak honestly with her and let her know that what she is fantasizing about isn’t going to happen.

The person closest to her needs to speak frankly — for the family — about their reluctance to visit the house again. Once she knows, she may be less eager to buy her father’s home. Yes, she could probably use some grief counseling, and it’s available to families who have experienced the kind of trauma she has. A resource that could help is the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988lifeline.org), but that poor, grieving woman has to be willing to ask for it.

◆◆◆◆

DEAR ABBY: When I’m invited to a friend’s house for dinner and asked to bring dessert, I always make something fresh and delicious for that evening. Lately, I’m noticing that several friends, when invited to my house or another friend’s party, are bringing along half-eaten desserts from the previous evening’s family dinner.

I think this is rude. It’s like they’re saying, “You’re not worth the effort.” Is this a new trend, or am I too sensitive?

IRRITATED IN IDAHO

DEAR IRRITATED: You’re not too sensitive, and if this is

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



a new trend, I haven’t heard of it. Many hosts serve fresh food to their guests and are careful about how it is presented. By that I mean, it is not half-consumed and doesn’t look like leftovers. If the “several friends” who do this don’t have time to prepare something to bring, they should buy something and bring it whole.

◆◆◆◆

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

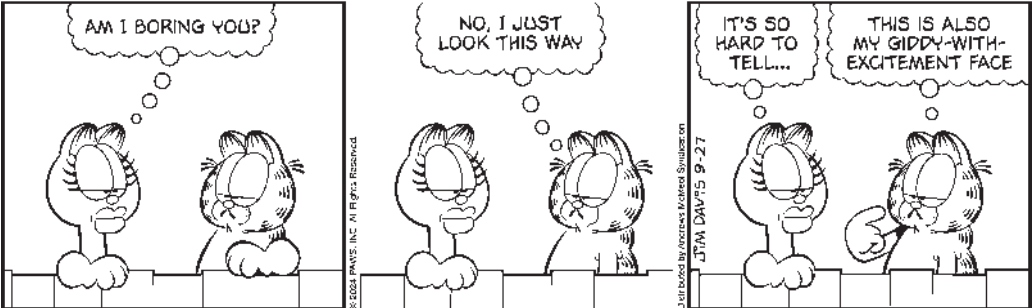
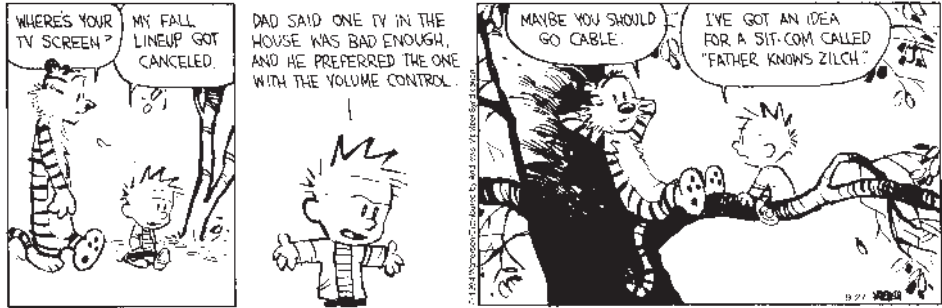
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

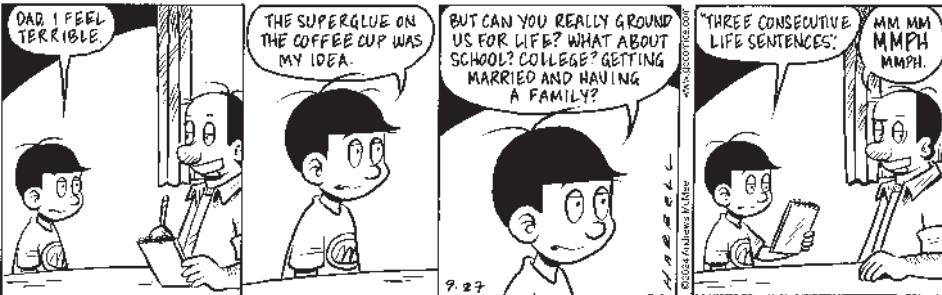


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Dugout item 4 "Toodlee-oo!" 8 "Today" co-host Kotb 12 Lawyers' org. 13 Apple on a desk 14 Spoken 15 Choker, e.g. 17 Wrinkled fruit 18 Coral structures 19 Sun-bather's goal 21 DDE's opponent 22 "JFK" actor Gary 26 Sun block? 29 Blaster's need 30 Undivided 31 Carrots' mates 32 Pub pint 33 Youngsters 34 Reply (Abbr.) 35 Roman 700

36 Curses 37 "Amen to that!" 39 Zing 40 Rowing need 41 Van Gogh painting 45 Crummy joint 48 Cycling contest 50 Malaria symptom 51 "Cold As Ever" rapper 52 School book fair org. 53 Profs' degrees 54 Swear 55 Cain, to Adam

DOWN 1 "Troy" actor Eric 2 Help a hood 3 Mexican snack 4 Cultivated the soil 5 Gather 6 Tic-toe 7 Paint solvent 8 Keep after 9 Assoc. 10 Lentil dish 11 Actress MacGraw 16 Actor Kinski 20 Flight stat 23 Amstrong's destination 24 Poker pot money 25 Legendary loch 26 Bookkeepers (Abbr.) 27 Fallen predecessor 28 Brewer's kiln 29 Pampering, for short 32 Biting 33 Piglike mammal 35 "Houdini" singer Lipa 36 French caps 38 Boxing ring border 39 — Peak 42 Easy targets 43 Outside (Pref.) 44 Penn or Astin 45 Fist bump 46 "Yecch!" 47 Wet dirt 49 Hosp. section

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lola Kirke, 34; Avril Lavigne, 40; Anna Camp, 42; Tamara Taylor, 54.

Happy Birthday: A change will give you a new lease on life. Take the initiative to make things happen instead of waiting for someone to kickstart your next adventure. Gather information and align yourself with people who share your concerns. Don't let financial pressure be your demise; sell off what you don't need, take a minimalist approach and move toward a fresh start. Take control instead of being controlled. Your numbers are 5, 17, 21, 26, 35, 43, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take the necessary precautions, but don't shy away from a physical challenge that makes you feel alive. Channel your energy into something that offers rewards, and give your undivided attention to ensure you come out on top. Play to win and embrace forward motion. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Choose where you spend your time and energy carefully. It's important not to exhaust yourself or deplete your budget for someone or something that isn't worthwhile. Prepare, strategize and execute your plan with purpose, and be intent on pursuing what's best for you. Positive change is within reach. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can be open to suggestions, but it is only necessary to be receptive if you like what you hear. Someone will take advantage of you if you let them. Focus on what makes you happy and surround yourself with supportive people. Walk away from users, abusers and indulgent temptations. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Consider your plans and actions before moving. Talk to an expert, get the facts and fig-

ures, and consider what's best for you physically before you decide what to do next. Time is on your side, and discipline and attention to detail will be in your favor. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A passionate approach to whatever you pursue will give you the necessary momentum to reach your destination. Go all in, and don't look back. Be vocal about what you want, and don't settle for less. Write your story and complete each chapter with a cheerful ending. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Care less about what others do or say and more about what matters to you. Wrap your head around what you want and focus on making your aspirations a reality. Anger wastes time; use your energy to take on meaningful responsibilities that offer exciting prospects and happiness. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put your energy into something tangible and get things done. Time management and attention to what matters will help you achieve what you desire. Be true to yourself and your beliefs; the opportunity will come your way if you put in the time and effort. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Push yourself toward better health. Get physical, and change your lifestyle to ensure you achieve your goals. It's up to you to implement positive change and follow through with your plans. Don't blame others when you're the one in control. Do what's right and best for you. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen, observe and make choices that satisfy your needs. Follow your passion, your heart and your dreams instead of being someone else's workhorse. Look for opportunities and incorporate your experience and skills into your subsequent pursuit. Your intelligence and charm will

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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help you come out on top. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Question everything. Consider your needs and be innovative in your approach, and you will discover what works best for you. A change may appear unattainable, but you will overcome any obstacle with ingenuity and force. Trust your instincts, and you'll be able to use your skills impeccably. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your finger on the pulse and run the show. Take the initiative to budget for what you want and to let go of what you no longer use or need. You have choices; with each, a new opportunity will unfold if you believe in yourself. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Cut to the chase and advocate on your behalf. There is no room for error, excess or letting someone steal your thunder. Step up and make yourself and your choices clear. Using discipline and intuition will help you reach your objective. Romance is on the rise. ***

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, helpful and energetic. You are intuitive and innovative.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9. Difficulty: ****

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9. Difficulty: ***

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

HAVE AN 'EBULLIENT' DAY Solution: 8 letters

Word search grid with letters B, R, I, L, L, I, A, N, T, A, E, B, P, U, A, U, E, V, O, L, V, I, V, A, C, I, O, U, S, W, O, M, E, L, A, N, E, M, O, N, E, H, P, P, E, Y, A, X, L, U, F, T, H, G, I, L, E, D, E, S, A, R, C, S, I, L, L, Y, T, C, C, A, N, C, O, N, K, E, U, Y, M, E, E, I, I, Z, S, A, T, M, T, A, L, N, R, R, S, T, A, Z, C, U, R, A, E, N, B, L, N, R, Z, S, L, L, G, L, P, G, C, V, E, L, E, Y, E, I, U, I, L, R, E, R, U, I, D, E, N, S, M, F, N, A, H, L, E, R, E, L, I, I, T, I, R, G, D, F, O, A, U, B, A, A, I, F, I, T, E, F, R, I, E, N, D, P, F, T, R, S, N, P, E, N, E, R, G, Y, O, P, E, P, P, Y, O, O, H, I, G, H, S, P, I, R, I, T, S, Y, C, P, C, E, L, E, B, R, A, T, E, L, K, R, A, P, S

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Awesome, Brilliant, Buoyant, Celebrate, Cheerful, Confident, Dazzling, Delightful, Eager, Energy, Excellent, Friend, Full, Glad, Glee, Grand, Great, Happy, High Spirits, Honor, Love, Merry, Optimistic, Peppy, Phenomenal, Positive, Remarkable, Silly, Smile, Sparkle, Special, Spectacular, Sunny, Superb, Upbeat, Vivacious, Zest
Yesterday's Answer: Tender
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED?

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Difficulty: **** 9/27
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Orioles prevent Yankees from clinching AL East with 9-7 win



**N E W
YORK (AP)**
— Gunnar

Henderson had three of Baltimore's 12 hits in the first four innings, and the Orioles again prevented the New York Yankees from clinching the AL East title by holding on for a 9-7 victory Wednesday night despite another home run from Aaron Judge.

Colton Cowser drove in three runs for the playoff-bound Orioles, who tagged substitute starter Marcus Stroman (10-9) early and improved to 8-4 against New York with one matchup left in their season series.

Judge went deep for the fourth game in a row, connecting on his major league-leading 57th homer in a four-run ninth inning. The three-run shot off Matt Bowman upped Judge's total to 142 RBIs, also most in the majors, and shaved New York's deficit to 9-7.

Keegan Akin entered and retired the next two batters for his third career save and first this year.

Juan Soto also homered and knocked in three runs for New York, which could have wrapped up the AL East race with a victory over the Orioles either of the past two nights. Anthony Volpe had an RBI single.

Baltimore moved within four games of the Yankees in the division standings with four remaining. Cedric Mullins went 3 for 4 with a walk, three runs scored and two stolen bases.

MARINERS 8, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Mitch Garver and Julio Rodriguez homered, and Seattle took advantage of five Houston errors during a victory.

Seattle (82-77) won for the fifth time in seven games as it tries to rally into an AL wild card. It is chasing Detroit and Kansas City for one of the last two spots.

The Mariners were down 1-0 before rallying in the sixth. Dylan Moore reached on the first of four errors by rookie third baseman Shay Whitcomb, who entered in the fourth. Victor Robles walked and Cal Raleigh hit a one-out single to load the bases.

Justin Turner then extended his on-base streak to 20 consecutive games with his single on a line drive to left field that scored two.

Garver opened the seventh with his 14th homer on a line drive into the seats in left field. The Mariners added two more runs in the inning thanks to three errors by the Astros, including two more by Whitcomb.



Baltimore Orioles' Gunnar Henderson hits a single during the first inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, in New York.

**PIRATES 2, BREWERS 1
PITTSBURGH (AP)**—Liover Peguero slashed a two-run double, Luis Ortiz pitched seven strong innings and Pittsburgh beat Milwaukee.

Ortiz (7-6) allowed one run on four hits with a walk and five strikeouts in seven innings. His only mistake was a second-inning pitch to Jake Bauers that Milwaukee's designated hitter sent to the seats in right-center for his 12th homer of the season.

Peguero led all Pirates minor leaguers this season in hits, RBIs and doubles before being called up on Tuesday after Pittsburgh's surprisingly released first baseman Rowdy Tellez. The shortstop laced a ball to the notch in left-center against Freddy Peralta (11-9) in the fifth that drove in Yasmani Grandal and Nick Yorke, both of whom reached base after working full-count walks.

GUARDIANS 5, REDS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning after Cleveland pitchers retired the first 18 batters, lifting the AL Central champions to a victory over Cincinnati.

Ramirez hit his 38th homer of the season, connecting against Emilio Pagan (4-5) with two outs to score Steven Kwan and Angel Martinez. The All-Star third baseman also doubled, tripled and scored twice. He has 115 RBIs.

Cleveland has wrapped up a first-round bye in the playoffs and remains in the hunt for the top seed in the AL, trailing the New York Yankees by a game with three remaining.

The Guardians used seven pitchers, with Hunter Gaddis (6-3) picking up the win and Emmanuel Clase loading the bases before getting his franchise-record 47th save. Clase

tied St. Louis' Ryan Helsley for the major league lead.

PHILLIES 9, CUBS 6

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Nick Castellanos, Trea Turner and Kody Clemens homered, and Philadelphia beat Chicago and clinched a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Castellanos had three hits and scored three times. Bryson Stott also had three hits and Brandon Marsh drove in three runs for the Phillies, who claimed their first NL East title in 13 years on Monday night.

Coupled with Milwaukee's 2-1 loss to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia secured the bye and home-field advantage in the NLDS. The Phillies owned the tiebreaker with the Brewers after winning the season series against the NL Central champions.

Nico Hoerner homered twice for Chicago, and Isaac Paredes hit four singles. The Cubs lost two of three in the series to finish with a 39-42 road record.

ROYALS 3, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP)—Five Kansas City relievers pitched 6 2/3 innings of two-hit ball after starter Michael Lorenzen's early exit, Robbie Grossman hit a two-run double, and the Royals held on to the second American League wild card with a win over Washington.

Michael Massey singled in a run off DJ Herz (4-9) to help lift the Royals to a second-straight shutout victory after a season high-tying seven-game losing streak.

Kansas City and Detroit are both 84-74 but the Royals hold the head-to-head tiebreaker advantage over the Tigers for the second wild-card spot.

Daniel Lynch IV (2-0) worked 2 2/3 scoreless frames in relief of Lorenzen, who exited with lower body fatigue

after 2 1/3 innings in his first start since sustaining a left hamstring strain on Aug. 27.

TIGERS 7, RAYS 1

DETROIT (AP)—Parker Meadows and Spencer Torkelson homered, and Detroit strengthened their bid for an AL wild card with a win over Tampa.

Detroit moved 10 games over .500 with its fourth consecutive victory. It is tied with Kansas City (84-74) for second in the wild-card standings behind Baltimore.

The Tigers play the Rays on Thursday before finishing the season with three home games against the lowly Chicago White Sox.

Detroit is 29-11 since Aug. 10, thanks to ace Tarik Skubal, one of the favorites for the AL Cy Young Award, and a cast of young pitchers. On Wednesday, rookie Keider Montero pitched 2 2/3 innings of one-run ball before five relievers combined for 6 1/3 scoreless innings.

BLUE JAYS 6, RED SOX 1

TORONTO (AP)—Jonatan Clase hit his first career home run, Kevin Gausman pitched six innings to win his final start of the season and Toronto beat Boston, eliminating the Red Sox from postseason contention.

The Red Sox, who had won four in a row, needed to win their final four games and get help from opponents in the American League wild-card race.

Clase went 3 for 3 with a walk, scored twice and drove in two. He extended Toronto's lead with a homer off Josh Winckowski in the seventh inning.

Alejandro Kirk, who extended his career-best hitting streak to 17 games, had three hits and three RBIs as the Blue

Jays won for the first time in six games and avoided a three-game sweep. Boston had been 5-0 in Toronto this season.

TWINS 8, MARLINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Manuel Margot scored from second in a five-run seventh inning on one of four Miami errors and Minnesota rallied to win, snapping a three-game skid.

Christian Vazquez's sacrifice bunt in the seventh was thrown wide of first base, allowing Margot to score. Carlos Correa followed with an RBI double that scored Vazquez, and Carlos Santana added a three-run double as Minnesota snapped a three-game losing streak and sent Miami to its 100th loss of the season for the fourth time in franchise history.

The Twins kept their playoff hopes alive. Minnesota is 1 1/2 games behind Detroit in the race for the AL's final wild card with four games to play. Detroit, Kansas City (which owns the second wild card) and Seattle, which trails Minnesota by a half-game, were all victorious on Wednesday.

Griffin Jax (5-5) worked 1 1/3 innings of relief and earned the win for the Twins.

WHITE SOX 4, ANGELS 3, 10 INNINGS

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago avoided a record-breaking 121st loss for the second straight game, beating Los Angeles on Andrew Benintendi's 10th-inning single.

Chicago is tied with the 1962 New York Mets for the modern major league record for losses in a season. It plays Los Angeles again on Thursday before finishing its schedule with three games at Detroit.

Benintendi delivered the go-ahead hit for the second time in as many games when he lined a one-out single to left-center against Jose Quijada (2-1), helping the White Sox (38-120) put off infamy for the second night in a row. Designated runner Miguel Vargas scored from second.

CARDINALS 5, ROCKIES 2

DENVER (AP)—Ivan Herrera had two hits and two runs scored, Masyn Winn tripled and doubled and Erick Fedde struck out 10 as St. Louis beat Colorado.

Pedro Pages had two RBI singles and Thomas Saggese added a pair of hits for the Cardinals, who have won four straight and will try to complete a series sweep in Thursday's finale.

Brenton Doyle homered leading off the bottom of the ninth against Matthew Liberatore, who was relieved by Ryan Helsley after issuing a one-

out walk to Michael Toglia. Sam Hilliard then grounded into a game-ending double play for Helsley's 48th save in 52 chances.

DIAMONDBACKS 8, GIANTS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Zac Gallen struck out 11 in six innings, pinch hitter Gavin Smith hit a three-run homer and Arizona ended a three-game losing streak with a win over San Francisco.

Arizona needed a rebound after a losing streak that included a blown eight-run lead in a loss to Milwaukee and Tuesday's lackluster 11-0 loss to the Giants.

The Diamondbacks responded behind a strong performance from their ace to tie the New York Mets in the National League wild card, a game ahead of Atlanta. The Braves and Mets had to postpone the final two games of their series until a Monday doubleheader due to Hurricane Helene.

RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 1

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Wyatt Langford and Adolis Garcia homered to help Texas spoil the final scheduled night baseball game at the Oakland Coliseum, beating the Athletics.

An animated crowd of 35,270 came out on a chilly late September evening, regularly chanting "Sell the team!" as a message to owner John Fisher. The A's have played in the Coliseum since 1968 and are scheduled to move to Sacramento for at least the next three seasons while waiting for a ballpark they hope to open in Las Vegas.

A tribute video to the Coliseum played on the big screen before the game, and the grounds crew has written "Thank You Oakland" into the outfield grass for the final series.

DODGERS 4, PADRES 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shohei Ohtani singled in the go-ahead run before stealing his 56th base of the season in the sixth inning and Los Angeles defeated San Diego to move within a victory of clinching the NL West.

The Dodgers increased their lead over the second-place Padres to three games with four to play and reduced their magic number to two. Los Angeles needs a win in Thursday's series finale to earn its 11th division title 12 years. The Dodgers have already clinched a postseason berth.

The Padres' five-game winning streak ended a night after they celebrated making the postseason with a game-ending triple play on their biggest rival's field.

Rodgers on verge of 60K yards passing while lifting Jets' rejuvenated offense



FLORHAM PARK, N.J.

(AP) — Aaron

Rodgers was surrounded by a throng of reporters in the middle of the New York Jets' locker room when Breece Hall found an opening.

Just as the running back usually does on the field.

Hall playfully asked a question of his quarterback—and then probably wished he hadn't.

"How do you feel the O-line and the running backs and the tight ends have done protecting you in these first three games?" Hall asked before practice Wednesday.

Rodgers, without missing a beat, grinned and coolly delivered a witty response.

"I feel like they've been playing really well," Rodgers said. "You, you know, have done a nice job in protection. I'd like to cut down on some of the complaining in the huddle, though, if I could. You've got to remember, this is like in the Aesop's Fables. You know, we need to be the tortoise. It's slow and steady wins the race. Sometimes you get a little antsy out there. You want the ball, you're complaining, you're, you know, in my ear the whole time. We've just got to understand it comes in the flow."

A smiling Hall then quickly said: "Off the record."

Rodgers joked he was teasing Hall "because he's annoying me here," but added that the running back is "one of the best dudes on the team" who doesn't actually complain. And he called Hall "brilliant on the field."

Takes one to know one.



New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) pauses between downs against New England Patriots during the first quarter of an NFL football game, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, in East Rutherford, N.J.

The 40-year-old Rodgers is a four-time NFL MVP whose list of on-field achievements is lengthy. And still growing.

He can add another superlative to an outstanding career Sunday at home against Denver. Rodgers is 321 yards passing from becoming the ninth player in NFL history to throw for 60,000, joining the likes of Tom Brady, Drew Brees, Peyton Manning and Brett Favre—the player he backed up for three years in Green Bay.

"It means I've played a long time," said Rodgers, in

his 20th season. "I remember when I was a young player, there was a lot of records Favre was getting. I think he got 421 touchdowns to pass (Dan) Marino at the time. You know, all the yard markers that he had, the consecutive games played, and he used to always say, 'It just means I've been around a long time.' And I was like, 'It means a little more than that.'"

"But when I'm in the position now, that's what it feels like. It feels like I've been playing a long time and naturally this would be part of

the process. But I'm thankful to be playing still and that there's milestones like this to hit."

The one catch is the fact Rodgers has gone 25 straight regular-season games — 26 counting the postseason — without throwing for 300 or more yards. It's the longest such drought of his career.

It appeared he might end it last Thursday night in a blowout of New England before finishing with 281 yards passing.

"I'm thankful for all the guys that caught passes from

me and all the guys that blocked for me," Rodgers said. "I couldn't name them all, but give me a little time."

That's another list to which he has added this season. After a torn left Achilles tendon on his fourth snap last year ended his season, Rodgers has bounced back by getting increasingly better—and more mobile—in the three games the Jets played in 11 days to open this season.

"I felt like I was, you know, myself," the quarterback said after the win against the Patriots.

He delivered passes with precision, completing 27 throws to eight receivers, and showed he's past any worries about his surgically repaired left foot by routinely scrambling and making plays on the run. He also had three rushes for 18 yards.

"Well, I can't say I'm bereft of some difficulties with the Achilles, but it's a process," Rodgers said. "I feel better Week 1 to Week 2, Week 2 to Week 3. And then we got a nice little gift there with the long weekend. So I feel better. I mean, I said after Week 1, I felt like I was going to progress and be able to move around a little bit more."

"I did that maybe a little bit against Tennessee and then obviously moved around a lot more effectively in Week 3."

The Jets (2-1) were one of the NFL's worst offenses the past few seasons without Rodgers. They still rank in the middle of the pack with 310 yards of total offense per game, but have scored three touchdowns in each game. And New York is first in the league on third down after converting 21 of 37 opportunities (56.8%) in the first three games.

"It's easier when you kind of get kicked in the teeth to come together," Rodgers said. "It's us against the world. It's us against the big, bad media, who's saying how bad we are. We can kind of come together. But can you still come together and have the same approach when everybody's kind of starting to sing your praises a little bit?"

"I think that's the mark of a great team."

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Nick Herbig grew up as the youngest of three brothers on the island of Kauai.

That meant he needed to prove himself if he wanted to hang with the big kids.

Over and over and over.

"I was always the underdog," the Pittsburgh Steelers outside linebacker said Wednesday. "I was always expected to be last. Always the smallest. Always the slowest, the shortest, whatever it may be. So I always had a chip on my shoulder."

Fast forward a decade or so, and not much has changed. That drive has never left Herbig. Not after a breakout season at Wisconsin in 2022 when he led the Big Ten in sacks.

Certainly not in Pittsburgh, where Herbig rapidly won over the coaching staff and his teammates with a relentlessness mined from somewhere deep within.

"He's hardworking and humble, and I really think that tees up performance for him," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said.

Steelers' Herbig grew up having to prove himself. It hasn't stopped in NFL

"But he also has ridiculous belief in self. And that's attractive to coaches. That's attractive to older players. He's not a guy that's ever scared."

Mostly because Herbig figures he never really had a choice. Not with older brothers Jake and Nate—a veteran offensive lineman who joined the Steelers shortly before Pittsburgh selected Nick in the fourth round of the 2023 draft—making him prove it every day growing up on the island of Kauai in Hawaii.

Asked how he managed to get the best of Nate—who at 6-foot-4 and 334 pounds has nearly two inches and 100 pounds on his little brother—and Nick just laughed.

"A lot of hit and run," he said. "I'm not a scared man, I'm a smart man. So I get my licks in when I can and dip out."

Which isn't that far removed from the way Herbig plays. There is a fury that accompanies Herbig at seemingly every snap. He knows he's a little undersized for the NFL.

He knows his job requirements task him with taking on offensive tackles whose shadow he would fit in comfortably.

Yet he has made being a disruptive force in the backfield commonplace during his burgeoning career. Herbig had three sacks as a rookie in 2023 when he played just 17% of the defensive snaps while receiving a daily close-up on what it takes to excel from All-Pro T.J. Watt and longtime running mate Alex Highsmith.

It hasn't taken long for Herbig to absorb the lessons Watt and Highsmith dole out with regularity. When Highsmith left Sunday's 20-10 victory over the Los Angeles Chargers with a groin injury that will force him to miss time, Herbig came on in the third quarter and dropped Los Angeles quarterback Justin Herbert to stall a Chargers drive before it even really began.

Herbig did it again in the fourth, this time taking down Taylor Heinicke with a speed rush that looked—if you nar-

rowed your eyes a bit—like something straight out of Watt's toolbox.

It's not a coincidence. Herbig spent a portion of the summer training alongside Watt in Wisconsin, an experience that Watt described as Herbig being "stuck to my hip, I couldn't get away from him."

Herbig does something that makes his No. 51 jump out to Tomlin so often that Tomlin was caught by a microphone during the preseason saying he might need to start calling the 22-year-old "Mr. Herbig," though don't expect Watt to give Herbig the same satisfaction.

"Absolutely not, never will," the three-time NFL sack champion said with a smile.

Still, Watt admits he sees signs of Herbig making the leap from sometimes frantic rookie who gets by on energy alone to a somewhat more refined pass rusher.

"He's been a sponge to everything and it's been so cool to see him continue to grow and

ask the right questions," Watt said. "And he's not afraid to ask questions and then go out and try new moves and fail and get better."

Steelers left tackle Dan Moore Jr. has seen that development firsthand. There were times last season when Moore and Herbig would be lined up against each other during practice and Moore could tell by Herbig's stance what was coming. Not so much in 2024.

"I think he's just doing a better job of setting things up this year, making things look the same," Moore said.

Herbig will likely have to expand his repertoire as his resume grows. He will likely make his first NFL start on Sunday when the Steelers (3-0) visit Indianapolis (1-2).

He's fully prepared for the Colts to test him and see if he's big enough and strong enough to set the edge on running plays, a part of Herbig's game that remains very much in development.

He also understands that for

all the attention he might get for finding his way to the quarterback, there is another level he needs to get to.

Yes, Watt is putting together a Hall of Fame career because of the sacks he racks up. Yet Watt is hardly a pass-rush specialist. The lesson in that isn't lost on Herbig.

"I think if you want to be an elite player and play at an elite level, you got to play all three downs," Herbig said.

He's off to a good start. But he's hardly arrived. And Herbig knows that better than anyone. There is much work to be done and more doubters to silence.

"I'm not supposed to be here," he said. "I'm just from Kauai, like 60,000 people in the middle of the ocean. So, you know, I've got to have (an) edge to get here."

NOTES: Highsmith, RB Jaylen Warren (knee) and RB Najee Harris (rest) did not practice Wednesday. ... QB Russell Wilson (calf), CB DeShon Elliott (quadriceps) and G Isaac Seumalo (pectoral) were limited.

Boston Celtics' summer of snubs could make them hungry for repeat title

BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum has a new tattoo on his back, another gold medal to hang around his neck, and a chip on his shoulder.

The Boston Celtics star reported for his eighth NBA season on Tuesday after an eventful few months in which he helped the franchise win an 18th championship and then joined the U.S. team for its victory at the Paris Games, only to be consigned to being a role-player and getting benched for two games in the middle of the Olympics.

"In real time, it was tough," Tatum said at the Celtics media day, acknowledging "I guess you could say that" it

would motivate him when the Celtics try to repeat as NBA champions.

"Did I need any extra motivation coming into the season? No," said Tatum, whose new ink is a picture of himself cradling the championship trophy. "It was a unique circumstance—something I haven't experienced before in my playing career. But I'm a believer that everything happens for a reason."

The Celtics return to practice on Wednesday, and the biggest obstacle to a repeat championship may be the complacency that can set in after winning the first one. That's why Tatum's Olympic humiliation may be just what coach Joe Mazzulla was looking for to



Boston Celtics' Jaylen Brown during an interview at the NBA basketball team's media day, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, in Boston.

keep his star focused. (Tatum had also been bypassed for Finals MVP in favor of teammate Jaylen Brown, who also — by virtue of coming into the league a year earlier—was the highest-paid player in the NBA.)

"Joe was probably the happiest person in the world that I didn't win Finals MVP, and I didn't play in two of the games of the Olympics," Tatum said. "So that was odd. But if you know Joe, that makes sense."

Also nursing a bruised ego is Brown, who was not selected to the Olympic team and took to social media to complain about the snub. Reporters didn't wait long before asking Brown about it.

"Damn. Question No. 1," Brown said with a laugh. "Don't I get to

warm up a little?"

"The past is the past," he said. "I'm extremely motivated, for obvious reasons. I'm ready to get after it."

CARDS

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at the end of the third.

However, the Cardinals' pitching staff was given a reprieve when their offense rallied and turned the tide when they pushed across run after run in the fourth. The Padres' pitching staff, on the other hand, was breaking down as they could not get any batters out and gave up seven consecutive runs to blow their lead. When the dust settled, the Cardinals were up, 8-5.

It wasn't over yet, but the Padres were back to square one and were down by three runs. They could only muster one run in the fourth to get within two, 6-8.

Pat Tenorio Jr. then padded the

Cardinals' lead to three runs again in the fifth, and it stayed a 9-6 ballgame until the seventh inning. The Padres were mum and prayed to the high heavens for a savior that didn't come as the Cardinals' Nokki Saralu and Eli Aughenbaugh took their game to the next level with two runs in the seventh, and two more runs in the eighth. Tony Tenorio and T.J. Sablan added two more for a 15-6 total at the top of the eighth.

It was lights out for the Padres as they scrounged up just two more runs at the bottom of the eighth, and the Cardinals flew into a blowout 17-8 game to clinch the first game of the best-of-three championship series.

If weather permits, Game 2 is scheduled for tonight at 6:30pm.

PAIRE

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changed in the second half. There, it was all Matansa as they broke the game open with a goal in the 47th by Tanapon Unsa.

Unsa then scored another goal just two minutes later, followed by Yoshi Mafnas to make it 3-0. Unsa completed the hat-trick 10 minutes after his first goal and Matansa had a 4-0 lead.

The Men's Development Team was shut down for the rest of the game but not without a lack of effort. It was just too little, too late to play catch up with

time running down quickly, and Mafnas ripped his second goal in the 75th which rounded up the final score, 5-0.

In other results last Sunday in the Dove Women's League A, Shirley's FC nipped one goal which was enough to win over Kanoa, 1-0; MP United FC Pink blanked sister team MP United FC Blue, 4-0; in Division B, Matansa FC 2 won over Paire, 3-2; Shirley's FC 1 slipped past Matansa FC 1, 1-0; Shirley's FC 2 silenced Latte FC, 2-0; and in the Masters Division, Paire edged Matansa, 2-1; Latte FC overpowered Shirley's, 5-0.

2024

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With this league, she said, "My main focus is to get older women to come out and play and have fun. We still accept players that want to join."

Marlene Lumabi, with the Northern Marianas Basketball Federation said of the league, "It's to open up a women's league for basketball, kind of like how soccer has leagues... It's to kickstart the women's program so we can invite more girls to come and play basketball, and also, it's for anyone who wants to play a sport. We're going to try to make it as friendly as possible."



LEIGH GASES

Team Mikki/Kaia's Mikki Kautz tries to maneuver past Team Irish/Connie defenders during the second game of the 2024 Women's Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.



LEIGH GASES

Players of Team Irish/Connie and Team Mikki/Kaia pose for a group photo after the end of the third game in the 2024 Women's Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New York	92	66	.582	—
z-Baltimore	88	70	.557	4
Boston	80	79	.503	12½
Tampa Bay	78	80	.494	14
Toronto	74	85	.465	18½

Central Division

x-Cleveland	92	67	.579	—
Detroit	84	74	.532	7½
Kansas City	84	74	.532	7½
Minnesota	82	76	.519	9½
Chicago	38		.241	53½

West Division

x-Houston	86	73	.541	—
Seattle	82	77	.516	4
Texas	75	83	.475	10½
Oakland	68	90	.430	17½
Los Angeles	63	95	.399	22½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	94	65	.591	—
New York	87	70	.554	6
Atlanta	86	71	.548	7
Washington	69	89	.437	24½
Miami	58		.367	35½

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	90	68	.570	—
St. Louis	81	77	.513	9
Chicago	81	78	.509	9½
Cincinnati	76	83	.478	14½
Pittsburgh	74	84	.468	16

West Division

z-Los Angeles	94	64	.595	—
z-San Diego	91	67	.576	3
Arizona	88	71	.553	6½
San Francisco	79	80	.497	15½
Colorado	60	98	.380	34

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Boston Celtics' summer of snubs could make them hungry for repeat.

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16 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cards fly to win Game 1, 17-8



LEIGH GASES

The Cardinals' Eli Aughenbaugh touches first base in the nick of time after a pickoff attempt by the Padres during Game 1 of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League championship series last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

It didn't rain on their parade as the long overdue best-of-three championship series of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League between the Cardinals and Padres finally got underway last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.



The field was actually slick with the light evening showers that welcomed both teams on the field before the first pitch and in the first inning—but the clouds held up throughout the rest of the game—unlike the Padres who blew their lead and lost, 8-17, to the defending champions.

The Padres struck first and found home plate three times after three back-to-back runs as the bags were juiced from an inauspicious start by Car-

dinals pitcher Bill Camacho. The top of the Padres' lineup—Ben Jones Jr., J.R. Suel, and Tony Salas—all scored for an early 3-0 lead.

Padres hurler Zach Blas then gave up one run to the Cardinals' Tony Tenorio who brought home Brian Camacho after a triple for a 1-3 game in the second inning.

The Padres' bats were still hot and Salas reached base again then was eventually brought home, followed by another run scored by Keith Kintol to extend their lead, 5-1

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LEIGH GASES

The Padres' J.R. Suel sprints toward home plate during a passed ball by the Cardinals during Game 1 of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League championship series last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

Paire, Matansa bag wins in soccer leagues

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club bagged a win against Latte FC in the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League A Division, while Matansa FC opened up the

Marianas Soccer League with a win over the Men's Development Team at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville Last Wednesday, Paire doubled Latte's score and won, 4-2.

Latte had the advantage



early after a 1-0 run by Khristelle Itas in the sixth minute. Both

teams then worked the pitch to no results until the 30th minute when Sharlette Casil tied it all up, 1-1.

It went one way after that as Paire's Jannah Casarino shot a goal in the 53rd, and doubled it just three minutes later for a 3-1 lead. Latte's Tamia Kileleman-Hix then made a last ditch effort at the net and found an opening in the 59th to come up within one, 2-3.

Martha Culp let Paire run away with the lead in the 61st after another goal, then that was all they wrote as Latte could not produce anymore.

Last Sunday, Matansa shut out the Men's Development Team, 5-0.

Both teams were evenly matched as the first half came and went without anyone scoring a goal. Multiple attacks were made on both ends but to no avail, but everything

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NMIFA

File photo shows Paire's Aubrey Castro in action during a game in the 2024 Fall Dove Women's League A Division at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

2024 Women's Basketball League every Sunday



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of Team Lia/Madi and Team Prime 1 pose for a group photo after the end of the first game in the 2024 Women's Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Get fit, make friends, and learn the ropes of basketball if you are a beginner in the 2024 Women's Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai every Sunday.

The friendly league is open to all ages and there's no team or registration fee. The games are every Sunday with the first day of games played last Sunday. The first

game is at 12pm, second game is at 1pm, and the third game is at 2pm.

There were 51 players put into six teams during the two games last Sunday. The teams are Prime 1, Prime 2, Irish/Connie (black), Mikki/Kaia (white), Des/Vina (gray), and Lia/Madi.

The league is a mix of NMI Women's National Basketball Team players and beginners. The rules are simple: national players cannot guard new players, and fast-break plays and full court presses are not allowed.

Irish Pagarao, NMI Women's National Basketball Team pool player and one of the organizers of the league, said that she was happy with the turnout on the first day of games.

"I saw new faces and women aged 20 and up. Back then when I [first] organized this, it was mostly young girls that wanted to play, but this year, I am happy that new players want to try basketball. They said they had fun and will recruit other women," she said.

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